

# **Minutes of the General Assembly of the Section Education and Research (SSS-ER), 25.10.2011, 15:30, Fribourg (Statistics Meeting 2011)**

## **Participants:**

Eva Cantoni (Uni Geneva)  
Dominic Schumacher (Uni Bern)  
Lutz Dümgben (Uni Bern)  
Barbara Hellriegel (Uni Zürich)  
Werner Stahel (ETHZ)  
Diego Kuonen (Statoo Consulting)  
Edy Zahnd (Forex and economic research/Forex-Daily)  
Beat Hulliger (FHNW)  
Andreas Ruckstuhl (ZHAW)  
Laurent Donzé (Uni Fribourg)  
Pascale Voirin (HES-SO/FR)

Chair: Eva Cantoni

## **1. Welcome**

President of SSS-ER Eva Cantoni welcomes the participants of the GA. The agenda is accepted.

## **2. Minutes of the last general assembly**

The minutes of the GA of 30 October 2009 in Geneva (available at <http://www.stat.ch/ssser/> and printed in SSS-Bulletin Nr. 70, October 2011, p. 29/30) are accepted unanimously.

## **3. Report of the activities of the last 2 years**

The report of the president is printed in SSS-Bulletin Nr. 70, October 2011, p. 31. Eva Cantoni highlights

Swiss Statistics Seminars

- Fall 2009 (Swiss Statistics Meeting, Genève) - R. Furrer, C.Kleiber, S. Sardy
- Spring 2010 (Bern) - C. Starica, N. Beerenwinkel, T.Gneiting. Preceeded by the 3rd workshop pf Applied Statistics in Life Sciences.
- Fall 2010 (Bern) - R. Nickl, J. Blanchet, G. Celeux. Joint event with BI section.
- Spring 2011 (Bern) - S. Sperlich, G. Blanchard, G.Jongbloed.

The University of Applied Sciences working group has met once per year (coordinated by Pascal Voirin).

SSS-ER has representatives in :

- European Courses in Advanced Studies (ECAS)
- Swiss Statistics Meeting 2011, Fribourg
- Swiss Statistics Meeting 2013, Basel (25th anniversary of SSS, 10th anniversary of SSS-ER)
- SSS committee

Eva Cantoni thanks Lutz Dümbgen for hosting and organising the seminars and Barbara Hellriegel (and Fränzi Korner) for organising the Lifescience seminars.

She thanks the SSE-ER committee for the good collaboration and support.

The work of Eva Cantoni as a president is owed with great applause.

#### 4. Elections

Eva Cantoni steps back as president and member of the committee. Five members of the committee are willing to continue:

Lutz Dümbgen, University of Bern  
Barbara Hellriegel, University of Zürich  
Andreas Ruckstuhl, Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften  
Werner Stahel, ETHZ  
Pascale Voirin, Ecole d'ingénieurs et d'architectes Fribourg

Two new members are proposed to the GA:

Victor Panaretos from EPFL  
Beat Hulliger from FHNW.  
The GA elects them with acclamation.

Beat Hulliger FHNW is proposed as new president of SSS-ER. Tacitly it is assumed that Beat Hulliger would also represent SSS-ER in the committee of SSS. He is elected with acclamation.

#### 5. Miscellaneous

The **spring seminar** of SSS-ER is scheduled for 20 April 2012 in Bern.

Discussion about format of participation of SSS-ER at the **Swiss Statistics Meetings (SSM)**:  
The challenge is to maintain interest and a sufficient number of attendants from SSS-ER.  
Two positions have been put forward:

1. SSS-ER organizes a seminar which is separate from the rest of the programme of SSM.
2. SSS-ER organizes a stream of sessions integrated into the programme of SSM.

Both have advantages and disadvantages.

A separate seminar (at the same venue) gives more flexibility to choose the time of the seminar and might concentrate the attendance. Friday afternoon seems to be good for

seminars and it is usually not a big problem for academics to attend on Friday afternoon. The hope is to attract more attendance. A separate seminar may be perceived as if non-academics were not welcome and the information about the seminar might not be reflected adequately in the programme of the SSM.

A stream of sessions may not be recognizable by academics as "organized by SSS-ER". If the stream is distributed over three days the attendance in a particular SSS-ER session may be small. On the other hand it may offer the opportunity for non-academics, particularly from SSS-BI, to have a look at the SSS-ER session and vice-versa. A concentration of the stream of SSS-ER on one day could be a possibility to attract attendance outside of SSS-ER and to ensure good attendance from SSS-ER.

The SSM should be organised at a central location of Switzerland in order to permit travelling on the same day.

It was also mentioned that SSS-ER must have a strong voice in the organising and programme committee of the Statistics Meetings. More coordination with SSS-BI might be useful. SSS-ER could also send two representatives into the committees. Some issues that are settled in principle must be reminded to the SSM committees by the SSS-ER representatives:

- i) There is no theme for the Call For Papers of SSM in order to give everybody a possibility to present his/her work.
- ii) The organising committee and the programme committee of the SSM are two separate bodies with different responsibilities.